

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is something the FCC has allowed to happen with their recent rulings for increasing ownership licenses of radio and television stations by the same entity.

Not only is Sinclair airing a one-sided political commentary, it is trying to pass it off as news. If it is news, then it does not have to require its stations to broadcast a newsworthy event. If Sinclair wants to promote a certain agenda, then they need to tell the people that is what it they are doing.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Airwaves controlled by the few can become vehicles for one-sided presentations and limited access. It seems we are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan for this freedom; yet we are suppressing it here in America.

While Sinclair has a right to control its stations, this forced request is another example of why control of the airwaves cannot be in the hands of a few. Centralized news or programming limits creativity and free thinking. Requiring my local station to air a politically-slanted program disguised as news is tantamount to communism, which Americans have fought hard to banish.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Thank you.